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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

*Group:* 3636 }  
*Confirmation No.:* 9518 }  
*Application No.:* 10/688,174 } **DATED October 09, 2006**  
*Invention:* RETRACTABLE COUPLING APPARATUS }  
*Applicant:* Boyle, Donald C. }  
*Filed:* 16 October 2003 }  
*Attorney*  
*Docket:* 2835-73549 }  
*Examiner:* Barfield, Anthony Derrell }

**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed August 09, 2006.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.